

# HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 14 No. 3 - March, 2006

## MRAC Officers

<b>President</b>	Patrick Moretti	W9UQ
<b>Vice President</b>	Howard Parks	AB9FH
<b>Secretary</b>	Brian White	K9LCQ
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Schulte	AB9EK

## Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis ('05-'07)	KA9OFA
Hal Newton ('04-'06)	KB9OZN
Charles Grady ('04-'06)	KC9IIV
Jerry Wahlen ('05-'07)	WA9CGE
Dick Wood ('05-'07)	W9JBE

## HamateurChatter Editor

Pancho Doneis	KA9OFA
New:	<a href="mailto:adoneis@wi.rr.com">(414) 344-4694</a>

<b>HamateurChatter Emailings</b>	
Joe Schwarz	N9UX

## Regular Mailings

Dick Wood	W9JBE
-----------	-------

## Club/VEC Phone no. is

**(414) 332-MRAC or  
(414) 332-6722**

Visit our website at:

[www.w9rh.org](http://www.w9rh.org)

Address correspondence to:

**M. R. A. C.**

**P.O. Box 070695**

**Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695**  
**or w9rh@arrl.net**

Patrick

W9UQ

73

## PREZ LETTER

What makes one part of Amateur Radio more attractive to an individual than another? What makes one Amateur Radio operator choose to operate a particular mode versus another? Why do you choose a specific transceiver from a particular manufacturer when there is a multitude to choose from and they are all "good to great"?

For me, my first Amateur Radio was a YAESU FT 101EE and while I have owned ICOM's and Kenwoods (still do in some cases) I have gone back and upgraded my radios with the next model of YAESU when I felt that urge. What made me make those choices? Well, mostly comfort, familiarity, and similarity of location of frequently used controls. I remember being dismayed when I upgraded from the FT 101 to FT 901DM: the tuning dial was reversed from what I had become used to. That drove me nuts and started a series of experiments with "other brands". I guess we look for convenience; reliability is expected as are most of the features: filters, noise canceling, ease of operation, power output, how it sounds, and how other people tell you it sounds over the air. I've had my current transceiver for several years now and feel quite satisfied with it - continue to remember how to use it - still make contacts on the first or second call and still get good reports on my audio. I guess I'll keep it a while longer.

I guess the point is that it is all very subjective and that we easily let ourselves be influenced by someone that is considered knowledgeable, by hype from the various manufacturers, by the look of the knobs and controls, by the appearance of the dial - nice color! (Several manufacturers have

taken steps to eliminate that variable by letting you select your own preferred color). On it goes. What will be the distinguishing feature for the next transceiver? Last year or the year before that, it was TenTec's Orion with its "roofing" filters. Now all high end rigs have them or talk of having their equivalent.

Regarding the "modes" that is an entirely different story, isn't it? We get exposed to an aspect of Amateur Radio or we imagine some form or way of operating. In some cases it is through exposure that we take up an established form and learn to appreciate it and make it our own. At other times, we think something should be. We discover that it isn't and find a way to make it "be". We invent a mode! There have been some interesting advances in our hobby/service over the last few years; PSK 31, APRS, and others yet to come.

What there is and what we have is an infinite number of combinations and possibilities to enjoy Amateur Radio, whether with various equipment, technologies, modes, or various ways to communicate.

What we do need to remember is that we need to approach each other with an open mind. What we might prefer is not necessarily someone else's cup of tea. Besides being inventive and communicative, we also need to be tolerant and supportive, even if the idea is not ours.

# NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.1300
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.2700
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.1600
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.9100-
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Fri	8:00 PM	28.4900
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri	9:00 PM	145.3900-
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Sat	9:00 PM	146.9100-
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.9850
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.5650
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.8000
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.9100-
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	9:00 PM	146.9100-

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz  
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

## HAMATEUR CHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

## CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP    K9LCQ    W9UQ  
WA9CGE    WB9PTC    KF9XL  
              K9RYW

Our thanks go

Rita Doneis, Howard Parks, Hal Newton, and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Dick Wood, for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter.

Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.



Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.

***T h a n k  
Y O U !***

On behalf of Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, I'd like to thank John Kraak for all his hard work on our behalf of our VEC the past seven years.

**He will be missed.**

## NEW 10 MTR. NET TIME

- It was the consensus of the participants of a recent ten meter net that we should change the starting time of the ten meter net on Friday evenings. So, starting 3/17/06 the new starting time will be **8:00 p.m.** The frequency is still 28.490 MHz.

- The ten meter net sometimes runs over into the 9:00 p.m. time for starting the two meter net.

- This may also allow more time for ragchewing if people would care to (no need to rush things).



# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2/23/06

## Meeting Minutes:

The January BOD meeting minutes were read by Brian, K9LCQ.

There were no additions or corrections.

A motion was made to accept the minutes by Pancho, KA9OFA and was seconded by Charles, KC9IIV. It passed by voice vote.

The treasurer's report for February was read by Tom, AB9EK.

There were no additions or corrections.

A motion to accept the report as read was made by Charles, KC9IIV and was seconded by Pancho, KA9OFA. It passed by a voice vote.

## Old Business:

### Meeting programs:

1.) Charles, KC9IIV, will need the audio equipment for Thursday.

2.) Tom, AB9EK, will host the program for March. It will be on decoding weather satellite data.

3.) Howard, AB9FH, will take responsibility for April.

## Repeater:

No report on the sale of the old controller.

## Website:

Brian, K9LCQ, indicated he will no longer maintain the website after the end of February.

## Inventory:

Tom mentioned that we need to complete the club equipment inventory.

## New Business:

Pancho indicated that he may not be at the meeting.

## Elections:

1.) We will need an election committee formed at the meeting on Thursday.

2.) Tom, AB9EK and Brian K9LCQ both indicated that they would not be seeking re-election.

3.) Charles indicated that he would accept any nomination for office.

## Net Preambles:

Charles asked about preambles for the nets.

1.) Discussion on the preambles for the nets.

2.) Brian stated that he emailed the board about a 2 meter preamble he placed on the website. He has received no comments.

3.) Pancho indicated he has a pre-

amble he used for the 10 meter and will email to the board. Brian indicated that it should be placed on the website.

## Field Day:

We need a Field Day Chairman. Charles indicated that he will head the food committee.

## Repeater:

Discussion on the length of the repeater ID and announcements. No resolution.

## Superfest:

Do we have a table? Howard AB9FH will find out.

## Adjournment:

A motion was called to adjourn.

The motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian White, K9LCQ  
Secretary

## GORDON WEST TO SPEAK AT MARCH MEETING

Gordon West, WB6NOA, will be the featured speaker at our March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club and will be speaking about the new Geosat GPS for APRS and other emergency communication related subjects.

The meeting will be Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at:

Redemption Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

(south end of building)

4057 N. Mayfair Rd. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Please **DO NOT** Call Church.

## "J" POLE ANTENNAS

'From the BENCH and DESK of the ANTENNA MAN'

What is a 'J' Pole Antenna? The 'J' Pole antenna is a 1/2 wavelength radiator with a 1/4 wavelength matching stub. The length of the 1/2 wavelength radiator is determined by calculating its length using the standard 468'/frequency (MHz) formula (the same as used in calculating a wire dipole. The length of the 1/4 wavelength matching stub is calculated using the free-space 1/4 wavelength formula (246'/frequency (MHz), multiplied by the velocity factor (v/f) of the section used (the "J") as a transmission line. For T.V. twin lead (300 ohm) "J" poles this factor is 0.85, and for copper 1/2 inch pipe this factor is 0.95. The attachment point for the feedline (using 50 ohm coax) is adjusted for the best SWR (standing-wave-ratio), but starts at 0.015 wavelengths from the "U" end of the matching stub (or "J"). The copper "J" width between the main radiator and the 1/4 wavelength is also variable, but for the purposes of building an antenna of a wide bandwidth the 0.0125 wavelengths is used.

In some cases coaxial cable feeding the "J" pole can require a balun-matching transformer to get the SWR to a usable value. In the case of copper "J" pole antennas the standard RG-8M (50 ohm) cable can be made to perform as a balun by adding ferrite transformer core(s), type 43 material, over the end of the cable, approximately 12-15 inches from the end of the attachment point. This makes the cores "work and smooth" at the highest point of RF current along the coaxial cable. The cores can be held in place with a wrap of electrical tape.

73,

Jerry Wahlen, WA9CGE

## HELP NEEDED FOR CLUB TABLE AT SUPERFEST 2006

Superfest is coming up soon, Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> (2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.) and Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (8:30 - 3:00 p.m.). We could use some help at the MRAC club table both days. You don't have to stay at the table the whole time and you don't have to come for both days. An hour or two would be good and it's a good place to take a rest from the Fest.

SuperFest is at  
AES Milwaukee  
5710 W. Good Hope Road  
Milwaukee, WI

## OTA CW CLASSES

- Dick McNew, WB9PTC, is still holding his "On The Air" code lessons/practice sessions. The class/practice is held on **Monday and Friday at 6:00 p.m.** on our repeater.
- He needs more feedback from the listeners and participants to know if they are getting it and to know how to improve the lessons. If you can, check in so he has an idea how many are participating/listening.
- Buck, K9RYW, and Bob, W9CYI, have been helping out so Dick can take a break once in awhile.



## REMINDERS!

- Please check in to our nets on Friday evenings.
- Our **ten meter SSB net** is at **8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz USB.**
- Our **two meter FM net** follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**
- Join us for **Saturday morning breakfast** at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

# EVENTS

## MRAC General Meeting

Thu. - March 30, 2006

7:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker:  
Gordon West

## SuperFest - 2006 \*

Fri. - March 31 & Sat. - April 1, 2006

AES - Milwaukee, WI,  
NO Foolin'

VE testing will be offered only on  
Saturday morning.



## MARA SwapFest \*

SAT. - APR. 22, 2006

Mandt Community Center  
Stoughton, WI

T/I on 147.15 (123.0 Hz pl)

## Central Wisconsin SwapFest

SAT. - APR. 29, 2006

Unity Memorial Hall

Unity, WI

T/I on 147.75/147.15, Medford rptr

## Cedarburg SwapFest

SAT. - MAY 6, 2006

Circle B Recreation Center  
Cedarburg, WI

\* indicates VE testing  
is available.

## DEADLINE

The deadline for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the **7th day of each month**. If you have anything (announcements, stories, articles, photos, projects, hints) for a particular issue of the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then. You may contact me by e-mail at my new e-address:

[adoneis@wi.rr.com](mailto:adoneis@wi.rr.com) or by snail-mail at:

**Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA, 1958 N. 38th St., Milwaukee, WI 53208**  
or by phone at: **(414) 344-4694**

## EXAM RESULTS

MRAC VEC held VE testing on Feb 25, 2006 at AES. There were 11 examinees, and 7 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their initial license. VEs who administered the session included the following:

Mark Bye -----KB9LDX  
Kent Christiansen----N9WH  
Tom Czaja -----KG9EE  
Ken Hahn -----WK9H  
Les Hundt -----AB9EY  
John Kraak -----KF9XL  
Tom Liebe -----WI9TOM  
Sherm Swanson -----KB9Q  
Mark Tellier-----AB9CD

Our next exam session will be on Saturday, April 1, 2006. This session will be held in conjunction with the AES Superfest. Testing will start at 8:30 a.m., and no exams will be started after 11:00. See you then.

73,

*John (KF9KL)*

John, KF9XL

## NEW E-ADDRESS FOR KA9OFA

I have a new Email address. It's now:

[adoneis@wi.rr.com](mailto:adoneis@wi.rr.com)

Any E-correspondence to the editor of the 'Chatter should be addressed to this address.

Our deadline for inclusion in the 'Chatter is still the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month except December (no 'Chatter).

**It's March!**

*Do you know where  
your receipts are?*

## EXAM SCHEDULE

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule  
**Spring & Summer 2006**

**Sat., Apr. 1, 2006 - 8:30 a.m. @  
AES Superfest**

Sat., Apr. 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES  
Sat., May 27, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES  
Sat., July 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

**AES = Amateur Electronic  
Supply**  
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

73,

*John (KF9KL)*  
John, KF9XL



The **next meeting of MRAC**  
will be **Thursday, Mar. 30, 2006**  
at **7:00 p.m.**

**Redemption Lutheran Church**  
Fellowship Hall  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
(Use the south entrance)  
**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**Please, DON'T call the church.**

**Our Repeater,  
Talk It up.  
145.390– MHz  
(127.3Hz pl)**

**Our program  
for the  
March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting  
will feature:  
Guest Speaker  
=====**  
**Gordon West,  
WB6NOA**

Visit our new website at: [www.w9rh.org](http://www.w9rh.org)

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**  
332-6722



Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club  
P.O. Box 070695  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695  
**MR.A.C.**